[130 cont.] Gaimard lists quite a number of persons
622 [565] in each settlement, besides the actual village chief, who belong to the rank of chief. The chiefs -- it is not noted whether all of them or only the village chiefs, probably all, in view of what will presently be said about taboos -- enjoy religious respect, are the mediators with the atua. Dillon ascribes special religious standing to Moembe, the chief of Maneve. The chiefs of the [565] entire group constituted a closed corporation, which did not take part in the quarrels of their subjects. Their esteem [131] ex- [628] tended also to the inhabitants of neighboring villages to such an extent that they induced people who were at war with each other to separate and were able to bring about the return of prisoners. [576] One village had a female chief (1). A sign of esteem is hand-

1. Dillon, pp. 153, 177, 193 f., 232, 266 (according to p. 177, the [554] wife and daughter of a chief not only wore the bark belt, but also the breast disk of the men, but no ornaments in their short hair). D'Urville, pp. 135, 149, 172 f., 176, 183, etc. Quoy, ibid., p. 317. Sainson, ibid., p. [262] 356 (he maintains that only the chiefs may eat pigs). Gaimard, ibid., pp. 323 ff., 327 f., 347 f.

[576] kissing, that is to say, probably the touching of the back of the hand with the nose (2).

2. D'Urville, pp. 175, 188.

622 784 [264] One of the principal functions of chiefdom in Polynesia is the taboo. On Vanikoro, refuse from the meals of a chief is taboo, wholly in the Polynesian manner, and is therefore tossed into the sea. On the other hand, only chiefs are not affected by the taboo that lies on any kind of object; for instance, they may enter tabooed areas without taking special precautions,

[131 cont.]

628 The political relationship of the individual communities to each other rests on constant mistrust. No native leaves his village unarmed. If a chief on Vanikoro visits another village, [622] a man precedes him in order to announce him (7). On the same

7. Quoy in D'Urville, p. 318. Gaimard, ibid., p. 334. Sainson, ibid., p. 354. Cf. also Joest in Baessler, pp. 390, 395.

631 [132] island, according to the report of D'Urville, there was a [103] kind of permanent confederation; Maneve, Vanikoro (the village), Mambili, and Vanu were united against Teve, Nama, Paiu, and 721 Tanema (1). In any case, war is one of the chief concerns of the [181]

1. D'Urville, p. (148), 183.

natives, the only one, besides a good business deal, that will induce the inhabitant of Ndeni to get up early, according to Joest (2). He mentions women and feather money as the causes

2. Joest in Baessler, p. 391.

of war (3).

3. Joest, ibid., p. 383. According to Carteret, p. 351, the natives were provoked by the cutting down of a (perhaps tabooed) coconut palm.

411 As for weapons, D'Urville is the only one who mentions the blowgun, but only as a shooting implement of a single village on Vanikoro; moreover, he says himself that he merely assumed its presence from the gestures of the inhabitants of [535] Teve (4). The club (Figs. 58-60) appears on Ndeni only as

4. D'Urville, p. 166.

584 [141 cont.]
small initial payment makes the girl taboo, so that no other man
583 can buy her. In each case the final purchase of the woman is a
614 matter between the two kin groups [Sippen], that is, the totem
groups; not only the closest members, but all the male members
of the kin group demand their share of the purchase price, which
is always paid in feather money. It is therefore not rare that a
[584] betrothed couple must wait two years before they can marry be-
cause the kin group of the bridegroom is not yet able to pay the
584 purchase price. It seems that the bridegroom himself rarely takes
part in the negotiations; often he knows nothing about it at first.
Sometimes he is told that a girl has been chosen for him, and he
is admonished to avoid a certain house. He then guesses who his
chosen one is. Codrington mentions that often the bridegroom
[585] resists violently, even at the wedding, but he does not say whether
this is actually an aversion to the marriage or a ceremonial act.
We know nothing about the procedure of the wedding, but after-
591 wards the young husband takes his wife first to the house of his
father, until he builds his own home (4). In rarer cases no

4. Joest in Baessler, pp. 379, 381. Codrington, p. 239. O'Ferrall, pp. 223 f. According to F. de Tolna, Chez les Cannibales, p. 268, the people along the coast on Vanikoro buy wives from the people of the bush for a breast disk each.

[583] [628]

934 engagement takes place, but the young man seduces a girl; in
583 that case, however, his kin group must pay the girl's kin group
595 whatever price is demanded (5). Polygamy depends upon the

5. Joest in Baessler, p. 383.

ability to pay (6).

6. Dillon, p. 305, says that "persons

/197 cont./

small stick or a Pteropus bone as a net needle. The cord /198/ is strung onto this needle in loops (Fig. 45, Nos. 1 and 2) which slip off easily as the cord is used. During the plaiting the smaller nets are stretched with the great toe. The making of the knots is shown in Fig. 45, No. 3.

Political Affairs; War

Graebner's assumption (1) that the importance of the

1. [Ethn., I, p. 130.]

chief has decreased in recent times seems to be correct. I did not meet a true chief, and apparently all the men of a village decide questions of external policy. Nevertheless, there must be leaders, but they are merely the most important and the wealthiest men of a village, with no other position than that of a village elder, of a chairman in the men's house (2). They

2. [Dr. Speiser herewith verifies his assumption in Südsee, p. 299. This is probably also what O'Ferrall, section "Historical Sketch," means when he speaks of two or more chiefs in each village.]

can hardly give direct orders, but they are the nominal owners of the dance areas and the men's houses; also, their indirect influence may be considerable because of their wealth. Moreover, they sometimes indulge in the luxury of having wives in several villages, thus traveling from one village to another, and therefore have influence over extensive areas. As prominent men, after death they are shown the honors that were formerly bestowed on the chiefs.

Feuds between villages used to be very frequent and are not rare even today. The cause is almost always the

/198 cont./ The cause is almost always the
628 assault of a woman, which should be atoned for by the death of
[584] the offender, but, after a great number of arrows have been shot off, the matter is usually settled by the payment of a fine (3).

3. [Coombe, p. 180 (cf. also O'Ferrall, section "Historical Sketch") reports that when peace is concluded the side that has had the fewer losses must give the other side the same number of boys as their excess casualties, and these boys must climb a tree, whereupon they are shot.]

[728]

Most of the villages live in indolent peace with one another. It is as a district, however, that the people regard themselves as a
[634] unit and stand together in a fight with another district. Thus, in
[619] 1912 latent hostility had existed for many years between the inhabitants of the east and west coasts of Graciosa Bay, and communication between the two shores was almost completely cut off.

911 As for weapons, I did not find the blowgun anywhere (4),

4. [Cf. Ethn., I, p. 132.]

but I did manage to acquire a few war clubs (Fig. 46) (5). They

5. [This must have been the kind of club that Markham mentions for Nukapu, not the dance club; this is probably also the kind of club with which Bishop Patteson was slain on Nukapu, both of which facts should be mentioned in connection with Ethn., I, p. 132. In mission circles the impression seems to be that Patteson was killed with a bark-cloth beater (O'Ferrall, section "Historical Sketch"; Coombe,

[1177]

/203 cont./

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the women scarcely live apart from the men, in Polynesian fashion. However, see Girieud and Herrenschmidt, p. 107, according to whom the women, like those of Nitendi, must hide in the bush and turn their backs or dive under the water when men approach.]

must even turn away if, walking along the village shore, he sees the women far out on the reef, and the women must cover themselves with their tapa cloths in front of the men. One almost never sees the women on the water; they go to the fields only in bands, accompanied by an old woman "chief," and if there are men coming from the distance, the women must hide in the bushes and turn their backs to the men. The men, for their part, must announce their coming by slapping their buttocks with their hands. The whole village watches over the behavior of the women; the members of the village feel responsible for the honor of their women, even when the latter have been bought by strangers and have moved away.

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With such strict etiquette there could not fail to be constant violations against morality, which are then the cause of village feuds. If a man happens to succeed in surprising a woman, it is said that he usually kills her to avoid discovery.

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Birth (1) takes place in the house. The woman gives

1. [Cf. Ethn., I, p. 144.]

birth standing up, holding on to another woman around the neck, and a midwife receives the child. The mother may go out as soon as she likes, but the child may not be washed during the first three months.

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Most of the prostitutes (2) come from the Reef Islands,

2. [Ethn., I, p. 145.]

because the women there are prettier and stronger than on